To debate the question whether it will be better for the United States to admit foreign emigrants, or not, is to debate an absurdity; for 1. No country but a land of Laestrigones, Cyclops or other Anthropophagi can exclude them; nor does any country that I know of attempt such exclusion, except, perhaps, the Japanese. The Chinese have at times refused admittance to Europeans, but their gates are always open to the Tartars. 2 Another and a greater absurdity arises from the consideration that all of us are foreigners or the descendants of foreigners. Our fathers were all emigrants from foreign lands ~~and~~ they dispossessed the aboriginals of the country – and we cannot conceive of any thing more absurd than our telling the people of other countries "You are foreigners and shall not have a footing among us." – Another impropriety

3 A third absurdity arises from the consideration that our ancestors who engaged in the revolutionary contest with Great Britain, drew up a declaration of rights or of Independence, in which they made it a very serious complaint against the King of England, that he had prevented emigration to his colonies, and endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; – Therefore our even making a question about admitting foreigners among us, might give rise to an accusation against us that we are a very volatile and unstable people.

The author of the Notes on Virginia, who made the discouragement of emigration a ground of the quarrel with Great Britain, immediately after the character of our revolution was established, wrote against the admission of foreigners on the ground that they would introduce their vices among us, and prove inimical to our liberty. In answer to this I may observe that vice springs up among us as naturally as among any other people. The ungodly exist among us, who naturally go astray as soon as they be born, and speak lies. A foreigner is just as likely to learn vices among us, as to instruct us

in the practice of them. And as to liberty, God knows there are no foreigners who are greater enemies to it than some among ourselves. Indeed those who make the most noise about liberty generally represent the foreign emigrants who come among us as patriots who fly from the tyranny and persecutions of other countries.

Were we determined to live in a state of nature, and to adopt the habits of the aborigines of this country, an influx of foreigners could not possibly be of any service to us — we should soon know how to make very good savages without them; but if we encourage the arts, if we prosecute the manufacturing system, or carry on Commerce, foreigners can render us very important services. The arts among us are in their infancy, and we certainly are excelled in many branches by foreign artists. In regard to manufactures, almost all our improvements are of foreign growth. The stocking frame was not invented by us — nor did we intuitively learn the use of the loom and the shuttle. No Arkwright has arisen among us to invent the Jenny the mule, the frame, the carding machine, and all those complicated and ingenious pieces of machinery which constitute the Cotton Factories. This most important branch of our Manufactures has been brought from England, and is almost exclusively conducted by Englishmen. Without assistance and instruction perhaps we might never have been able to reap the advantages which the country will derive from the introduction of them. They may within a few years form a most important branch of Commerce; and thus in both a manufacturing and commercial point of view foreigners are advantageous to us. In a National point of view foreigners add to our population, strength, and contribute toward the improvement, and Security, and

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cultivation of the country. They may have prejudices in favor of the governments of their native countries — but those prejudices survive not in their children. —

Foreigners moreover add to the wealth and general stock of the country; as many wealthy men have come and settled among us. They have many times been of service to individuals. Not many years ago the affairs of Oliver Phelps the great land jobber at Suffield in Connecticut were in a state of derangement: but at that critical conjuncture forty English farmers arrived and paid him forty two thousand pounds Sterling for some of his lands, which sum set him on his legs and removed his difficulties. These are among the numerous advantages we derive from foreigners, and it were easy to swell the catalogue. But I will only observe that our Federal Government must be convinced that the admission of foreigners is beneficial, or it would not hold out the encouragement ~~which~~ and invitation which is comprehended in that law, which admits the goods of foreigners coming to settle here, to an entry free of duty. The land holders must also be convinced there is great advantage which is derived from foreigners, as is evident from the abundant pains they take in foreign countries to seduce emigrants over here.

I shall not enlarge on this subject as I presume my argument is already sufficiently powerful to establish the affirmative of the question now under discussion.

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